

U.S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration
1100 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3939



APR 18 2005

Dear Mine Operator/Stakeholder:

On May 3, 2005, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) will hold a webcast devoted to the hazards associated with remote controlled continuous mining. I invite you to join us and participate as we examine several areas that will help us reduce fatalities involving continuous miners. I'm sure you will find this session useful in your quest to make your mining operations safer.

During the session, we will update you on recent developments surrounding the proximity device. We will also explain how we are using Job Task Analysis (JTA) to examine dangers associated with operating a continuous miner. The JTA identifies proper health and safety operation of the equipment, as well as preferred production and maintenance procedures. A properly completed JTA results in good, clear written documentation to use for training your miners on operational safety, production and maintenance of the equipment they use in their jobs.

We will be posting the entire power point presentation, including the presenter's remarks, on our website www.msha.gov. You can use this material as training aids to remind all miners in your operations, including supervisors, to remain vigilant when performing non-routine maintenance tasks.

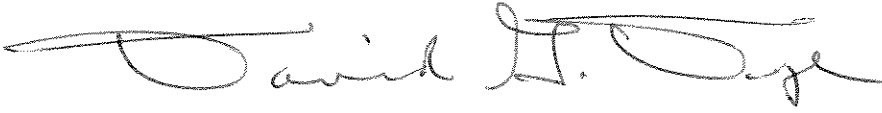
We expect this webcast to be highly informative and useful to mine operators throughout the country. However, the most important part of the program is your feedback and discussion. We need your participation to make this webcast successful. The experiences, questions and comments you share with us are a vital part of the safety and health dialogue in our industry – and are a critical part of making this webcast successful. Evaluation instructions will be provided at the close of the presentation.

Safety and health programs will only succeed with clear and definitive mine management support ...from top to bottom. I know I can count on your support – not only to make this an outstanding webcast, but to make it an event that will help you reduce and eliminate accidents, injuries and occupational illnesses in your operations.

To participate in the webcast, please contact Kathy Baker by April 22, 2005 at (304) 547-2009, or via e-mail at baker.kathryn@dol.gov.

I look forward to hearing from you at the webcast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David G. Dye". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David G. Dye
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Mine Safety and Health